

Message Text

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17

ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8584

UNCLAS TOKYO 3160

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR RANSOM AND CREECH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: NIPPON BONSAI ASSN BICENTENNIAL GIFT OF 50 HEIRLOOM BONSAI

REF: FASTOS 96, 90, 84; TOFAS 94; 0060 FEB 75 TO SEC DEF

1. AGATT OFFICE COORDINATING EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT WITH USIS MINISTER AND OTHERS RE BICENTENNIAL INVOLVEMENT AND POSSIBLE PART OF PROGRAM FOR EMPEROR'S VISIT.
2. BLACK AND WHITE AND COLOR BONSAI PHOTOS AIRPOUCHED MARCH 10 TOGETHER WITH BACKGROUND INFO RE BONSAI AND MEMO TO AMBASSADOR RE MARCH 20 PRESENTATION AT NEW OHTANI IN TOKYO WITH CREECH AND MARCH PRESENT.
3. CREECH WILL BE ON PROGRAM FOR BRIEF REMARKS OF APPRECIATION. NIPPON BONSAI ASSOCIATION (NBRA) REQUESTS HIS REMARKS BE CABLED ASAP FOR TRANSLATION TO BE DISSEMINATED AT CEREMONY. EMBASSY/USIS ALSO WISY TO KNOW IF CREECH AVAILABLE FOR POSSIBLE TV AND OTHER PUBLICITY FORUMS DURING PERIOD MARCH 20 TO APRIL 1.
4. NBA PROGRAM FOR MARCH 20 PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE CO-HOSTED BY NOBUSUKE KISHI, FORMER PRIME MINISTER, PRESENT OF THE JAPAN BONSAI ASSN; SEIJI KAYA, FORMER PRESIDENT OF TOKYO UNIVERSITY, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN BONSAI ASSN; AND TEISUKE TAKAHASHI, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN BONSAI ASSN. THE TENTATIVE PROGRAM IS UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR THE CEREMONY TO BEGIN AT 1600 WITH THE PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL

ANTHEMS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. OPENING REMARKS BY MR. TAKAHASHI AND A CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS BY FORMER PM KISHI WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE AMBASSADOR'S ACCEPTANCE AND REMARKS BY OTHERS SUCH AS DR CREECH. TEXTS OF INVITATION TO CEREMONY AND PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE BY NBA FOR MARCH 20 CEREMONY AIRMAILED TODAY (MARCH 10).

5. THE 50 BONSAI PLANTS TO BE DONATED WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT CEREMONY AND PREPARED FOR SHIPMENT TO U.S. O/A APRIL 1 IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. DEFENSE ATTACHE DUKE HAS CONTACTED DOD RE TRANSPORT FOR PLANTS AS PER REF 0060. HAVING TROUBLE GETTING DOD APPROVAL AND SEPARATE EMBASSY CABLE RE THIS WILL FOLLOW.

6. EMBASSY IN AGREEMENT WITH SENTIMENT OF CREECH AND ADMINISTRATOR THAT SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE CAN BE MOST IMPORTANT. AGATT NOW AWAITING NBRA FOLLOW UP TO OVERALL PROGRAM DISCUSSED WITH THEM LAST WEEK THAT WOULD HAVE MARCH 20 PRESENTATION OF 50 PLANTS AND FULL PUBLICITY HERE IN TOKYO. FOR NEXT STAGE NBA, WITH REQUESTED EMBASSY SUPPORT, PLAN TO APPROACH GAIMUSHO TO ASK THAT THEY CONSULT WITH IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD RE INCLUDING PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL PLANT(S) FROM EMPEROR'S COLLECTION TO THE PRESIDENT DURING EMPEROR'S PLANNED OCTOBER VISIT. FINALLY, WHEN PAVILION IS COMPLETED AND ALL PLANTS READY FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY O/A JULY 4, 1976, EMBASSY SUGGESTS POSSIBILITY THAT GOJ AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON AND SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, UNDER WHOSE JURISDICTION NATIONAL ARBORETUM COMES, WOULD PRESIDE OVER AN OPENING CEREMONY AT THE ARBORETUM. ALL OF ABOVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY FULL PUBLICITY RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN TOKYO AND DC. WILL FOLLOW UP AS SOON AS IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD REACTION RECEIVED THRU GAIMUSHO RE STAGE TWO PROPOSAL.

7. ACTION. REQUEST REACTION TO PARA 6 ASAP WHILE THERE IS STILL SOME FLEXIBILITY THIS END. EMPHASIZE THAT IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD REACTION NOT YET KNOWN.

HODGSON

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